

EL PASO TAXIDERMISTS HAVE NATIONAL REPUTATION

Notably Artistic Quality of Work by McLellan Bros.
Attracting Wide Attention; Chief Taxidermist a Former Government Naturalist.

That a successful taxidermist must possess both the scientific knowledge of a naturalist and the artistic ability of a sculptor was strikingly illustrated in the recent Made in El Paso show by the exhibit of McLellan Bros., of this city, taxidermists, manufacturing furriers and tanners. Visitors at the Made in El Paso Show will remember particularly the extraordinary beauty and naturalness of the broad-winged eagle which was a feature of the McLellan exhibit, and inquiry reveals the fact that naturalists and sportsmen in many parts of the world have long since recognized the notably artistic quality of all McLellan taxidermic work.

The members of the firm are J. Ellis and Myron McLellan, and the secret of their exceptional skill in a very difficult profession is partly inherited and partly due to unusually valuable experience. On their mother's side the McLellans are members of the Ward family—and those familiar with taxidermic lore need not be told that the name Ward has for many generations stood for pre-eminence in taxidermic art, both in England and in the eastern part of the United States.

J. Ellis McLellan, head taxidermist of the firm, spent fifteen years as a naturalist in the employ of the United States government, his work in that capacity taking him over all the more important game fields of North America. As a government naturalist, he had plenty of opportunity to develop his exceptional natural abilities as a sculptor, and the results of his studies and practical bench work along this line are strikingly evident in the life-like beauty of all his mounted pieces. Many specimens of Mr. McLellan's work are now parts of the wonderful government collection at Washington, and experts everywhere agree that his work is without a superior anywhere.

An inspection of the wonderful bear's head (illustrated on this page) will give an idea of the perfection of McLellan taxidermic methods. In the first place, J. Ellis McLellan, as a scientific naturalist, had to know the anatomy of a bear's head. Then as a sculptor, he modeled every detail of the bear's skull in the way which his artistic sense told him would give the most natural expression. From this sculptured model a paper mache form was made, and this paper mache form is the foundation of the head shown above. It should be remembered, too, that the size and shape of the teeth, and the coloring of the jaws and tongue are all absolutely true to nature. These are just a few of the myriad details which go into the production of a good piece of taxidermic work. The bear's head is mentioned merely by way of illustration. Every animal or bird submitted to McLellan Bros. is handled in the same careful and artistic way. Every head is made over a paper mache form, taken from a sculptured model. And herein lies the secret of the fact that McLellan Bros. annually receive orders from prominent sportsmen and naturalists in every part of the United States.

The McLellan business was first established at Douglas, Ariz., where the firm first established its enviable southwestern reputation. About three years ago the establishment was moved to El Paso, as being more central, and since then the growth of the business has been rapid and continuous.

Myron McLellan, who acts as business manager of the firm, has, like his brother, inherited all the family's artistic tendencies. Before he became associated with his brother some years ago, he had held a responsible position with an eastern art goods house. The general artistic bent of the family is further indicated by the fact that a sister, Miss Mera McLellan, is an instructor in the art department of the Nebraska State Normal University.

The mounting of animals and birds is only a part of the business of McLellan Bros. They are also manufacturing furriers, being equipped to manufacture furs and rugs of all kinds from raw skins and to remodel old

furs. Some beautiful examples of their fur work was shown in the Made in El Paso exhibit, and scores of delighted women in all parts of the southwest can testify to their expertness in this line. During the present season many big-

game hunters have sent in their trophies to be made into automobile robes, and the McLellans have produced some notably beautiful robes of this kind. The firm is equipped to fill all sorts of special orders for the manufacturing of furs, and as a result, El Paso is getting indirectly the benefit of much business of this kind.

The McLellan establishment is centrally located on San Francisco street, and its window displays, because of their unusual and artistic character, invariably attract the admiring attention of passersby. Indeed, it is fair to say that the McLellan windows help give newcomers to El Paso, on their way from the station, a most favorable impression of the Gate City.

The McLellan establishment is only one of the scores of El Paso manufacturing establishments which are winning for this city a far-reaching and most enviable reputation as a manufacturing center. The recent Made in El Paso exhibit called local attention most effectively to the number and quality



of industrial enterprises located here, and the superior merit of El Paso products will—as in the case of McLellan Bros.—prove the most effective kind of community advertising.

In New York, for instance, there is a prominent big-game hunter—a man of national reputation as a sportsman—who has all his trophies mounted right here in El Paso by McLellan Bros. He does it because he recognizes the superior artistic quality of McLellan work, and it is fair to assume that he has mentioned El Paso and McLellan Bros. many times while showing his big collection of trophies to admiring friends.

McLellan Bros. welcome visitors to their establishment, and a host of El Paso people can testify that a mighty pleasant and interesting half hour can be spent inspecting the rare and beautiful specimens of mounted animals and fur work. This display is, of course, one which appeals particularly to hunters, and there are scores of southwestern sportsmen who always make a visit to McLellan Bros. a feature of their visits to El Paso.



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